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Richardson elected president of MBC

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Gary Richardson, pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford, was elected October 27 to serve as the new president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention during the opening session of the 174th annual meeting at First Church, Jackson.

He succeeds Mickey Dalrymple, pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus, who completed his second one-year term as president. MBC presidents are limited to two consecutive one-year terms.

Richardson, a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), is the son of a long-time Mississippi Baptist pastor, the late James Richardson, and the twin brother of Jay Richardson, pastor of Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland. His younger brother, Ian Richardson, serves as MBCB communication services director in Jackson.

The new president's son, John, serves as a church planter at Traceway Church in Clinton, through the MBCB Church Planting Department.

Gary Richardson was nominated by Clarence Cooper, pastor of Brandon Church, Brandon. The nomination was seconded by Jim Burke, missions director for Lafayette Association in Oxford and Marshall Association in Holly Springs.

Rickey Blythe, pastor of First Church, New Albany, was elected to a first term as



PRAISE AND WORSHIP — Messengers and guests at the 2009 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 27-28 at First Church, Jackson, celebrate a risen Lord during a worship service in the sanctuary of First Church with the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra and combined choirs of First Church, Florence; First Church, Jackson; First Church, Madison; and First Church, Richland. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

first vice president. Blythe previously served as MBC second vice president. Chris Aldridge, pastor of Freedonia Church, New Albany, nominated Blythe, and the nomination was seconded by Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Ripley.

Paul Crowley, pastor of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, was elected to a first term as second vice president. He was nominated by LaRue Stephens, pastor of First Church, Long Beach, and the nomination was seconded by Brian Rushing, pastor of First Church, Newton.

Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, was reelected as recording secretary. Jerry Bingham, missions director for Benton-Tippah Association in Ripley, was elected to a first term as associate recording secretary, replacing Dan Watts, pastor of Sharon First Church, Laurel. All officers were elected by acclamation.

Facing the realities of the ongoing economic decline, messengers

approved without dissent a \$34,094,322 Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 2010 for the ministries of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board — 2.42%, or \$846,307, less than the 2009 CP budget.

All areas of the 2010 CP budget proportionately reflect decreases, including no salary increases for MBCB staff and more efficiency in administering MBCB program ministries.

The Southern Baptist Convention portion of the 2010 CP budget remains steady at 35%, or \$11,933,013.

Resolutions approved by messengers included:

- Appreciation to First Church, Jackson, for hosting the annual meeting; to the speakers, singers, and instrumentalists; to Dalrymple for presiding over the meeting; and the Mississippi Baptists who served the convention on the boards of agencies and institutions of the convention.

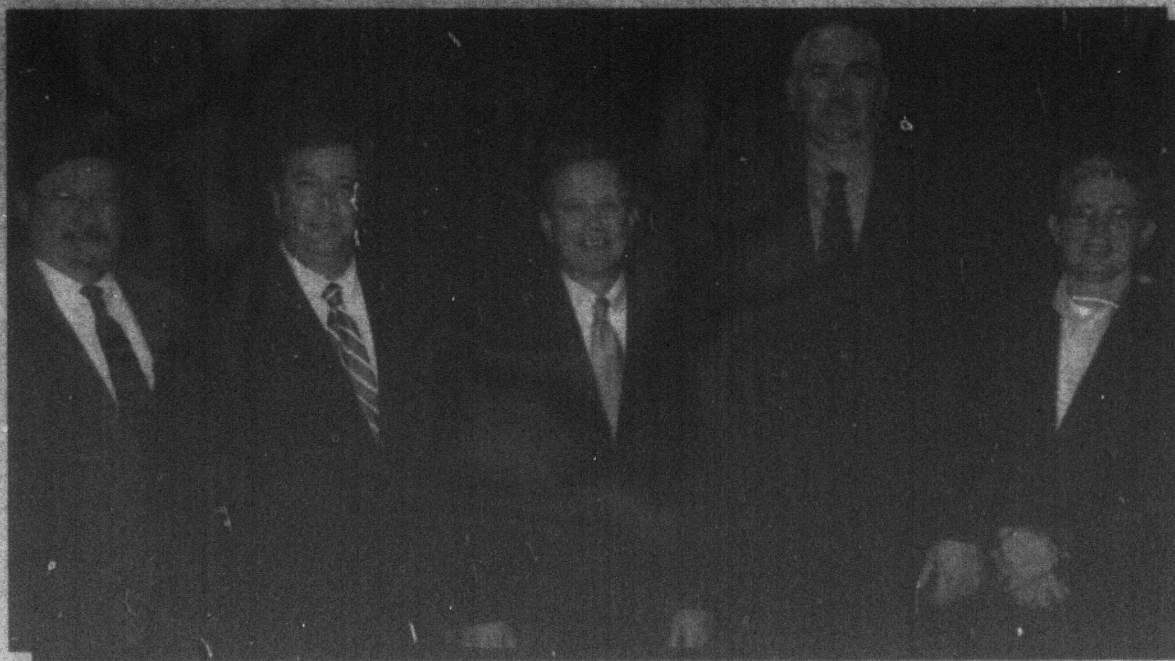
- Opposition to abortion. "Mississippi Baptists affirm all just and legal pro-life efforts that support the biblical principle that all unborn human life are persons," the resolution states.

- Appreciation and a call to prayer for Mississippi Baptists to continue to faithfully support the Cooperative Program.

The theme of the 2009 annual meeting was, "Ye shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth..." from Acts 1:8. A total of 931 messengers registered for the 2009 annual meeting, down from the 2008 registered messenger count of 1,039. Speakers included:

- Native Mississippi Jerry Rankin, who has announced his 2010 retirement

Please turn to "MBC" on page two



NEW OFFICERS — Officers elected by messengers to the 2009 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 27-28 at First Church, Jackson, include (from left) Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Olive Branch, recording secretary; Rickey Blythe, pastor of First Church, New Albany, first vice president; Gary Richardson, pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford, president; Paul Crowley, pastor of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, second vice president; and Jerry Bingham, missions director for Benton-Tippah Association in Ripley, associate recording secretary. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



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A can't miss meeting

If you weren't there, you should have been. In football parlance, the home team won and won big. The home team, of course, being all of us involved in the Kingdom work given to us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The 174th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention ended exactly as it started, with a spirit of unity and a focus on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) that other Christian organizations would struggle mightily to match. In case you live in a cave, you need to know that the annual meeting was held October 27-28 at its traditional location, First Church in Jackson.

First Church, Jackson, is the ideal place to hold the annual meeting. With ample space in the exhibit hall for all comers — including a spacious and well-stocked bookstore provided by LifeWay Christian Resources — everyone has the opportunity to learn more about the many ministries in which Mississippi Baptists are involved. (There are also snacks at many of the exhibits, a real draw for anyone in the Perkins family.)

First Church's expansive worship center is second to none in the Southern Baptist Convention when it comes to audio-visual amenities. The annual meeting planners made extensive use of those amenities, showing missions-related videos on the huge screens and staging dramatic lighting sequences.

Into that environment came 931 messengers and guests for the annual meeting. Frankly, there should have been many, many more Mississippi Baptists in those padded pews, but the folks who came were in for a real blessing.

While the exhibits were great and the worship center was comfortable, we were actually there for a much higher purpose: to focus worship and praise on our great God and His Only Son, Jesus Christ. Now, that's something to celebrate!

The preaching was outstanding. Convention President Mickey Dalrymple, pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus, delivered his second and final President's Address to the gathering. Randy Bostick, pastor of Oakland Church, Corinth, presented the Convention Sermon. Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New

Orleans (and pretty much an honorary Mississippian), preached the closing sermon.

In between, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Executive Director Jim Futral provided the MBCB Emphasis and native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, retiring president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke to the assembly.

Bobby Welch, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and retired pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, FL, presented the Bible Treasure devotionals. At the closing session of the meeting, Welch recalled a mission trip he made to Africa where local Christian pastors eagerly walked for miles to meet with the American Christians. Welch said many of the pastors were surprised when the Americans knelt to humbly wash the feet that were so dirty from those long walks, and he reminded the Mississippi Baptists in attendance of the responsibility to be like Jesus to a world in need of His eternal message.

In one of the most moving sequences of the annual meeting, Welch then encouraged the Mississippi Baptists in attendance to kneel humbly in front of the person next to them, touch their feet in a symbolic foot washing, and pray for them. Many tears fell to the floor as Mississippi Baptists took turns kneeling and praying for each other.

Recounting these few highlights, however, doesn't scratch the surface when it comes to the blessings bestowed upon this great meeting of Mississippi Baptists. If you weren't there, you missed experiencing all those blessings for yourself. There will be a hole in your heart for the rest of your life where those blessings should be.

You can make up for it, though. Mississippi Baptists hold this mighty meeting



HUMBLE PRAYER — Bobby Welch (kneeling), former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and retired pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, FL, kneels in prayer for Mickey Dalrymple (left), president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus, and Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in a symbolic foot washing during the Bible Treasure devotional at the October 28 closing session of the 174th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Welch, who presented the Bible Treasure devotional series during the two-day meeting, invited everyone in attendance to turn to the person next to them, kneel, and pray for that person in a similar fashion. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

every year. The 2010 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be held at First Church, Jackson, on October 26-27. Plan to attend as a messenger from your church, which will ensure not only your church's representation in the work of the convention but will personally bless you beyond measure.

It's up to you. Will you be there?

MBC (continued from page one)

from the position of president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va.

• Bobby Welch, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and retired pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, FL, who delivered the Bible Treasures series of devotionals. He currently serves as the Southern Baptist Convention's strategist for global evangelical relations.

• Jim Futral, MBCB executive director, who presented the MBCB Emphasis. He commended Mississippi Baptists for their continued giving during difficult economic times and commended the Cooperative Program for its effectiveness in reaching the lost for Jesus.

• Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans, who

preached the closing sermon during the last session of the annual meeting.

• Randy Bostick, pastor of Oakland Church, Corinth, who delivered the Convention Sermon.

• Mickey Dalrymple, who presented the President's Address.

Groups involved in praise and worship included the Youth Choir and Praise Band from Fairview Church, Columbus; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; the Praise Team and ensemble from Oakland Church, Corinth; the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra under the direction of David Young, contact consultant in the MBCB Church Music Department; and the combined choirs of First churches in Florence, Jackson, Madison, and Richland, under the direction of Larry Black, interim minister of music at First Church, Richland.

Praise and worship were lead by:

• Slater Murphy, minister of music at Fairview Church, Columbus.

• Jim Finkston, minister of music at Oakland Church, Corinth.

• Graham Smith, director of the MBCB Church Music Department.

• Mark Harris, former lead vocalist for the Christian group, 4Him, who also provided several solo performances during the meeting.

The 2010 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be held October 26-27, at First Church, Jackson.

Jeff Clark, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, was chosen to deliver the convention sermon. Vic Bowman, pastor of Star Church, Star, will be the alternate to deliver the convention sermon.

Abortion stays in health reform proposal

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Democratic leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives unveiled its 1,990-page health care bill on October 29 with funding for abortion intact, setting the stage for a battle with pro-life members of its own party.

A House floor vote on the Affordable Health Care for America Act, H.R. 3962, may occur as soon as November 5. As expected, the massive legislation includes a "public health insurance option" managed by the federal government that would fund elective abortions and a federal subsidy program for private plans that cover abortion, pro-life organizations reported.

There are indications Democratic pro-lifers may have enough votes to block passage of the health care measure by defeating the rule governing consideration of the legislation. The House leadership is expected to try to bring the bill to the floor under a rule that would prevent a vote on a pro-life amendment that would bar federal funds from paying for abortions in both the public and private plans.

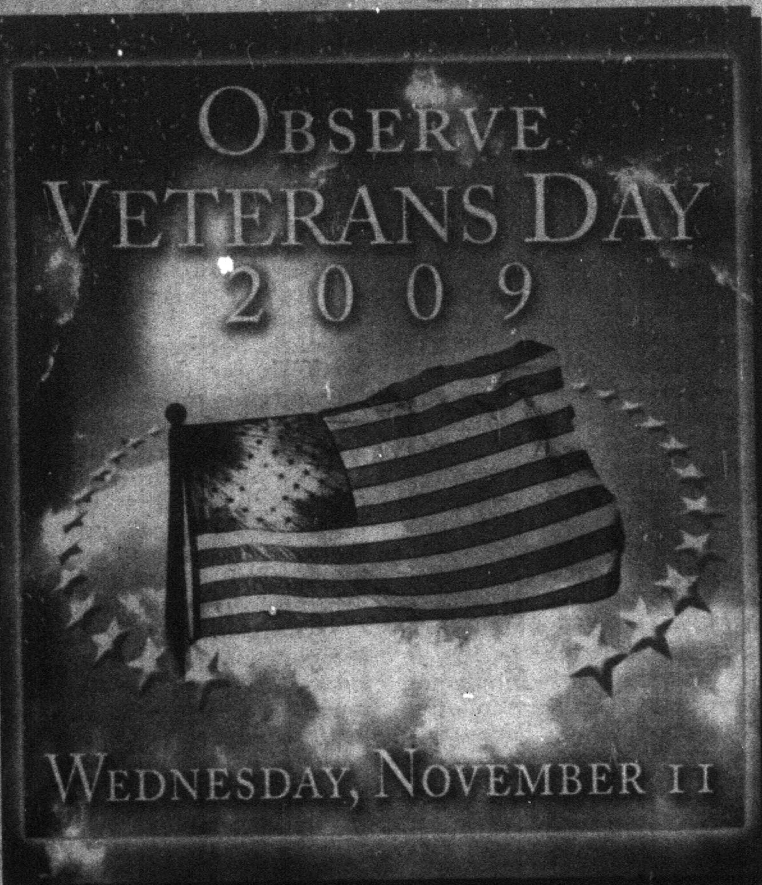
If the procedural vote on the rule fails, the legislation will not be able to go to the floor for consideration.

U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., leading the Democratic pro-life effort to amend the bill, and Democrats for Life of America (DFLA) both have signaled they have enough votes to defeat the rule and block the health care proposal — if their allies don't change their minds.

Speaking to CNS-News.com, Stupak has said there are about 40 Democrats who have agreed to vote with him, while DFLA Executive Director Kristen Day said October 29 there are about 43 Democrats committed to joining Stupak.

Pro-lifers have little margin for error. There are 256 Democrats and 177 Republicans in the House, with two vacancies to be filled November 3 in special elections. If the vote takes place before the two vacancies are filled and if all 177 Republicans and 40 Democrats oppose the rule, it would fail 217-216.

"Anyone voting to forbid amendments to this bill is in effect voting to set up a federal government program that will directly fund abortion on demand, with federal funds," said Douglas Johnson, the National Right to Life Committee's legislative director, in an October 29 written release.



Charmaine Yoest, president of Americans United for Life (AUL), said in a written statement October 29 that the language in the legislation creates "a dramatic change from the status quo — currently no federal dollars are used to pay for elective abortions or plans that cover abortion... Explicit language must be added to this health care bill to prevent unprecedented federal funding of abortion."

Also on October 29, Stupak said in a written statement he is disappointed the abortion-funding language from a previous House bill "has remained intact in H.R. 3962, mandating abortion services for the first time in our nation's history. I will continue to work with leadership to find satisfactory language on this issue."

Pro-lifers continued to refute contentions by supporters of the abortion-funding language that only private funds would be used for abortions under the public option.

"The public plan will be a federal agency program [under the Department of Health and Human Services], and all funds spent by the agency are federal funds," Johnson said, citing an October 9 memo from the Congressional Research Service that "confirmed that all funds spent by the bill's public plan will be federal funds."

Prominent Democrats who have claimed that the federal government could pay for abortion with 'private' funds have been engaged in a big snow job...

A different health care reform bill approved by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee September 30 also covers abortion.

The panel voted 13-10 against an amendment that would have prohibited federal funds from paying for abortions in plans or subsidies established by the legislation.

The full Senate has yet to take up the measure.

Looking back

10 years ago

In a departure from the traditional reading of Bible verses, Janet Pope, a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, quotes extensive Scripture passages from memory as part of the sessions of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting. Pope has memorized eleven books of the Bible.

20 years ago

William Carey College's board of trustees elects James W. Edwards as president. Edwards has been serving as interim president since June 1989, when J. Ralph Noonkester retired after 33 years of leading the college.

30 years ago

Baptist layman Harry S. Truman urges Americans to "find out what the Bible says about government." Truman states, "You know what the problem with the Russians is... they have no moral code. They are atheists."



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Judge: killer unfit

MARYVILLE, Ill. (BP) — The man accused of the March 8 murder of Illinois pastor Fred Winters has been ruled unfit to stand trial. Madison County Judge Richard Tognarelli, in an Oct. 20 ruling, cited a psychologist's report which stated Terry Joe Sedlacek, 27, is schizophrenic and unlikely to be able to participate in his own defense at trial. Sedlacek is accused of entering First Church in Maryville, Ill., during the 8:15 a.m. service and shooting Winters in the chest as he delivered his sermon. Sedlacek also is accused of stabbing two church members who tried to stop the attack. He had no known connection to Winters or the church. Tognarelli remanded Sedlacek to the custody of the Illinois Department of Human Services for treatment and evaluation in a secure mental health facility. The Department of Human Services must report back to the court in 30 days whether Sedlacek would be fit to stand trial within one year. Winters' widow Cindy released the following statement: "I continue to pray for Terry Sedlacek and his family. I hope he receives the help and care he needs, but ultimately my prayer is that he finds peace with God. Over the last several months I have had numerous interactions with the Madison County State Attorney's Office and those in law enforcement. I have the utmost respect for these individuals as well as for the judicial system of our country. My main concern at this time is not about the legal issues surrounding March 8th, but for my family's emotional and spiritual health." As the church continues to recover, its attendance, baptisms, and giving have increased. A statement on the church's website reads, "God is stirring us, His people, toward something special. May we collectively seek God's face through prayer, exhibit His patience as we continue on, and live our lives with passionate purpose." The church recently called Tom Hufty, vice president for collegiate affairs at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., as interim pastor until a senior pastor is chosen. Hufty will fulfill pulp responsibilities while the church's associate pastors will continue to have day-to-day responsibility for the workings of the church. Winters, 45, led the church for 22 years, seeing it grow from 30 members to more than 1,500. In addition to his wife, he is survived by their two daughters.

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Clue: N = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Zechariah Fourteen: One

THE FRIENDLY DARK

Some years ago an old buddy of mine and I were talking about exercising in the dark. We were on an exercise/running kick. He was doing his in the evening and I was trying to do mine in the morning. Both of us were out exercising in the dark. Occasionally he was getting his time in during the morning darkness also and he made an incredible statement to me that was insightful almost to the point of brilliance, or at least it was to me. He said, "The morning dark is a lot friendlier than the evening darkness."

It was one of those moments where I just immediately nodded, agreed with him, and thought to myself, "Why didn't I think of that?" It may seem to some of you that dark is dark and one is just like the other, whether it is 10 o'clock at night or five in the morning. It is interesting to study the Scripture in terms of light and dark. Verses will begin to jump out at you about light and darkness.

Jesus came to be the Light to our world. He said, "That men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil" (John 3:19). Often taking the Lord's Supper concludes with the pastor reminding all of us that, "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:6). While we may all experience the blessings of the light at times, we all walk in the uncertainty of the dark. Darkness can also represent those times in life that we may be in the depths of despair, testing, or simply may be unsure of what is around us and where we are going. As I write about the darkness, think about the darkness in that light.

Some darkness, like morning darkness, is friendly because it is hopeful. Unlike the darkness at midnight, morning darkness is filled with hope and possibilities. Before there is ever a tinge of light in the sky, long before the sun ever rises slightly

above the horizon to show itself, we can already feel the earth, trees, birds, animals, and even ourselves gearing up for the possibilities that are before us. It is the friendly dark because it is filled with hope of what lies beyond the moment. People cannot exist without hope. They cannot face life. They cannot bear burdens or endure hardships without hope. With hope, you can endure almost anything because life, troubles, and the future can change.

If you have ever known someone or maybe you have experienced yourself living in periods of depression, you begin to recognize that it is a period where life is like being in a vacuum. It could be brought on by economic conditions, physical problems, grief and loss, or a whole combination of events that make it look like the world is going completely against you. You move into that state and you may feel as though you are in the evening darkness. If you can ever see beyond that and realize that fact, maybe the sky is not filled with the brightness of the sun but there is hope just ahead. Truthfully, when you know Jesus, the Light of the World, and when you are able to open your eyes of faith and look beyond the moment you can see, be encouraged, and lifted knowing that you are in the friendly dark and there is hope.

The early morning darkness is friendly because it is hateless. Now some of you may read that word and think

it is not a word. Well, it is now! In light of the evening and morning darkness, let me share with you what I am talking about. Did you know that crime and criminal acts have their highest activity in the night — especially on the close sides of midnight? Apparently, criminals think that when everybody has settled down, gone to bed, and the world is quieting down, it is the time for them to get out and do their mischief. Their criminal activity is not as intense in the early morning darkness. It seems as though criminals do not go to bed early, get up before dawn, and head out to hurt, steal, and maim somebody. I am sure there are acts of hate and violence that take place 24 hours a day but there are fewer incidents in the early morning darkness than in other parts of the night. That is a good thing. That means early morning darkness is indeed a more secure, peaceful, and friendly darkness.

A final thought about the early morning friendly dark is the simple thought that it is happy. If you have never seen it, you may be amazed how so many people who may be going to work, exercising,

meditating, and having their quiet time early in the morning seem to be folks who have a brighter disposition than folks you run into in the dark of night. How could you not be happy just before the sun comes up and even though it is dark, you know that just beyond that curtain of darkness is 12-14 hours of light, life, and possibilities that you will walk into with joy and experience — moment-by-moment, firsthand. Maybe that is what the Scripture is talking about when it says, "Joy comes in the morning" (Ps. 30:5).

Have you ever had one of those days when everything seemed to go wrong? The props were knocked out from under you and you were faced with insurmountable problems and unanswerable questions. Then the night came and God gave you rest. You got up the next morning with the same things that you had been struggling with and though it was still dark, it seemed to be different. It seemed as though your heart was happier than it was heavy. You wondered how all of that transpired when you were not really doing anything but sleeping through the night. Well, God provided that for you. He also provided a new, happy day that would look different and be different. Put your smile on, go out there, and enjoy the friendly dark and the glorious sunrise.

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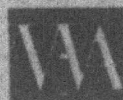
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Meadowview Church, Starkville



2. New Hope Church, Foxworth

1. The children of Meadowview Church, Starkville, recently enjoyed an outing to the Corn Maze. Shown are the participants.

2. New Hope Church, Foxworth, presented perfect attendance pins Oct. 25. Shown are B. B. Stringer, 54 consecutive years; Howard Bennett, four consecutive years; Sherrell Magee, 28 years; Jimmy Thomas, 40 consecutive years; Nancy Thomas, 23 years; Kristie Smith 12 years; Lynn McKenzie, five years; Sydney Rowell, two consecutive years; Dillon Smith, five consecutive years; and Chase Clark-13 consecutive years.

3. GAs from Copiah Association area churches completed their World Venture books and earned their World Venture badges and yearly charm for their bracelets. There were 64 girls and 30 leaders present. The girls made and donated 50 hygiene bags for the Christian Motorcycle Association to use at Mississippi bike rallies. Shown are the participants.

4. The Women's Ministry of First Church, Brandon, will host its Fall Women's Conference Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Guest speaker/singer is Former Miss Mississippi and top ten Miss America finalist Charlie Ray, Hattiesburg. Tickets, \$15, are available at the church office; lunch included. For information, call Linda Goodman, (601) 825-6766.

5. Amy Massey, church secretary at First Church, Morton, won a dozen



3. Copiah Association GAs

roses and a gift basket of gourmet foods from American Family Radio. Massey's name was entered into a drawing during Church Secretary Appreciation Week by Randy Rogers, a church member.

6. Trinity Church, Pearl, will have an old-fashioned country store and silent auction with Gospel singing, canned goods, baked goods, homemade crafts, and food Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., as a fundraiser for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. For information, call (601) 939-3217.

7. Parkside Church, Byram, will host Squire Parsons and the Squire Parsons Trio in concert Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.

8. First Church, Runnelstown, will host the Greens in concert Nov. 19, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 583-3733.

9. The youth of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, conducted services Oct. 25, with 17-year-old Marvin Quavis bringing the message, with lunch following. Roy Moody, pastor.

10. The congregations of Davis Road Church and Henderson Road Church have merged to form Parkside Church, Byram.

11. First Church, Vicksburg, met and exceeded its goal for the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering by giving \$9,900.

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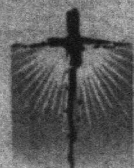
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GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH of Purvis, MS seeking Minister of Music. Send resume to P.O. Box 1117 Purvis MS 39475 e-mail to goodhopebaptist@bellsouth.net or call 601-794-2972, Fax 601-794-2995.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST ON 84 West Brookhaven, Ms., is seeking organ player. Send resume to Danny W. Mullins, chairman music committee, 2295 Tiger Trl. S. W. Brookhaven, Ms. 39601

STEEP HOLLOW BAPTIST CHURCH, Poplarville, Miss, is seeking God's man for our full time Senior Pastor position. Please mail resumes to 2336 Hwy 53, Poplarville, MS 39470 or e-mail to shbcadmin@hughes.net.



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COLLEGE NEWS



1. Brooke

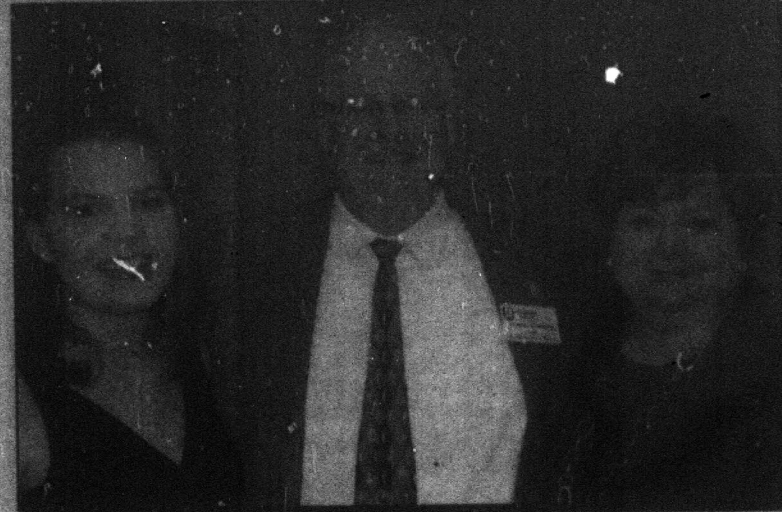
1. Jonathan Brooke, assistant professor at William Carey University, received a Humanities Teacher Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council Oct. 29. The MHC recognizes one faculty member from each institution of higher learning in the state each year.

2. Luke Gardner, sophomore Christian Studies and Philosophy major, was recently awarded the Carpenter Gandy

Ministerial Scholarship from the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The scholarship award was presented to Gardner at the annual Church Related Vocations Banquet at Mississippi College. Pictured are Wayne VanHorn; Gardner; and Ruthie Courtney.

3. About 20 members of Charlotte Causey's Bible class that meets regularly at the Baptist Healthplex, Clinton, donated \$1000 to the Mississippi College Department of Music in Causey's honor.

4. Katherine Campbell, senior Christian Studies and Philosophy major, was recently awarded the Hardy Denham Endowed Scholarship from the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The scholarship award was presented to her at the annual Church Related Vocations Banquet at Mississippi College. Pictured are Campbell; Wayne VanHorn; and Ruthie Courtney.



4. Campbell award



2. Gardner award

STAFF CHANGES

1. David L. Sellers, Collinsville, is available for supply, interim, or transitional pastorate. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 337, Collinsville, MS 39325. Phone (601) 938-0841.

2. High Hill Church, Neshoba County, has called Howell Thrash as pastor. Shown are Thrash and his wife, Dot.



2. The Thrashes

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Eastview Church, Laurel:** Revival, Nov. 8 - 11; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. through Tues.; Wed., 7 p.m.; Brett Golson, speaker.
- First Church, Terry:** Revival, Nov. 15 - 18; Sun., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Gann, speaker; Boyd Germany, music; John Pace, pastor.
- Calvary Church, Yazoo City:** Revival, Nov. 8 - 11; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Claude Shufelt, speaker; Caleb Clark, pastor.
- Horseshoe Church, Tchula:** Homecoming, Nov. 8; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Bill Blount, speaker.
- Mt. Pleasant Church, Smith Association:** Revival, Nov. 8 - 11; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by dinner; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Duncan, speaker; Latrelle Crumpton, music; John T. Miles, pastor.
- First Church, Shannon:** Revival, Nov. 8 - 11; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Marc Howard, speaker; Jeff Short, music.
- Enon Church, Batesville:** Revival, Nov. 8 - 11; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Stevens, speaker.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Celebrate Your Trials

James 1:2-18

By Ken Anderson

Trials are part of the fabric of our lives. They come in many shades of color. They are not welcomed or pleasant. However, Christians face their trials with different resources than others. The purpose of this lesson is to help Christians respond to trials by exercising their faith in God and seeking His wisdom.

We Have Reason to Rejoice

2-4:

James commands his readers to consider their trials as pure joy. Naturally, this seems inconceivable. To experience trials or temptations and simultaneously experience real joy is the opposite of common sense.

James did not admonish his readers to seek out trials in order to experience joy or assume that trials in themselves could be joyous. The words "count it" in verse two

(KJV) suggests the joy which follows a particular trial. After the storm passes by there is joy in the victory of God's power in the experience. "The real joy is experienced after the trial, after the affliction, after the temptation. Since this is so, the trials of which James will speak are certainly a ground for joy" (The Work of Faith, Spiros Zodhiates, p. 21). Read Psalm 30:5.

Trials also produce patience or endurance. Patience in verse three means the capacity to stand fast under pressure. This means that one's trust in God remains strong under pressure and is not deserted. Endurance then is a path to maturity. The word perfect or mature in verse four refers to full-grown maturity, not to complete perfection. Trials allow believers to experience and prove the power of God



Anderson

and grow in maturity. This is the reason for joy in various trials. Divine Wisdom is Available 5-11: James encouraged his audience to ask for God's kind of wisdom to turn trials into joy. God's wisdom does not refer to knowledge only but knowledge that is demonstrated in the way one lives. The path to God's wisdom is through prayer. Believers are mandated to ask God for understanding to response to life's circumstances. Believers' requests for wisdom is not a one time event, but a continual persistence petition. Perhaps James knew his Jewish readers would recall Solomon's petition for wisdom. Read 1 Kings 3:7, 16-28. Harold S. Songer wrote, "prayer does not open doors for those who pray without a genuine commitment to do right once they understand God's will. Christians who pray to discover what is right because they are committed to doing it will not be disappointed."

James affirms God's willingness to give wisdom generously and without hesitation (Vs. 5). "Upbraiding" means He gives without demeaning the one who receives it. The words "wavering" or "doubting" carries the meaning of indecision and uncertainty as to one's commitment to follow God (Vs. 6). Such wavering is like a turbulent storm that causes confusion and instability. God cannot give to those who are tossed about by doubt. (Vs. 7-8).

James gives two specific circumstance that required God's wisdom (Vs. 9-11). First, the word "lowly" referred to the poor and oppressed (Vs. 9). James did not teach that poverty was a blessing, rather that the poor are blessed in their high exalted spiritual state. Second, the "rich" or affluent (Vs. 10). The rich man is to boast in his humiliation. He was to be aware of the temporary nature of worldly wealth. Such wealth is so short-lived that it withers away by the sun's heat (Vs. 10-11).

God is Good all the Time

12-18:

Here James stated a beatitude to make his point, "blessed is the man" or "happy is the man" that endures temptation. The faithful will have the ultimate reward that God gives, "the crown of life" (Vs. 12). These temptations come from within a believer not from God (Vs. 13-14). God is good to bless those who persist in their faith in God. In contrast, a life that allows temptations to become full grown as a life style of sin gives birth to death (Vs. 15). God is the source of every "generous act and every perfect gift." The gifts, of course, include salvation (Eph. 2:8-9). James' Jewish audience understood the tithe of the firstfruits of their harvests and herds etc. Therefore, believers are to be dedicated to Him as the firstfruits giving Him the very best and the finest. Believers are eternal creatures also. This world is temporary but Christians have eternal life with God (Vs. 16-18)!

Anderson is Transitional Pastor, Tremont First Church, Tremont.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Choose Wisely

Psalm 1

By Ginger M. Caughman

I hope you know the wonderful musical, "Fiddler on the Roof." I love the entire scene when Tevye discusses his problems with God and wishes he had enough time "to sit in the synagogue and pray." I'm reminded of the Old Testament patriarchs, when wearing his Jewish prayer shawl with the dangling tassels, Tevye wishes and reflects how he would love to: "discuss the Holy Books with the learned men..." In the film version of the play, with a close-up camera shot of his glowing face, Tevye sings: "That would be the sweetest thing of all" (by Stein, Bock, & Harnick, Crown Publishers, 1964).

God's Way vv. 1-3

Like the Psalmist (v. 2), what a delightful blessing to read and meditate on God's Word day

and night. Our last unit in Psalms focuses on "Living in Harmony with God," from now until the end of November.

Scripture admonishes us to make wise choices, live righteously, obey God's Word and always give God thanks!

The lively song "Streams of Water" (by Sy Gorieb and Tim Hosman, © Integrity, 1993), follows exactly verses 1-3 of Psalm 1, to the beat of a calypso drum.

Charles Spurgeon calls the first Psalm the preface Psalm, "the text upon which all of Psalms make up a divine sermon. Psalm 1 is a notification of the contents of the entire book. The Psalmist desires to teach us the way to blessedness and to warn us of the sure destruction of sinners."

The Lord's fullness of life, God's Way, Jesus called the abundant life (John 10:10 KJV).



Caughman

The Other Way vv. 4-5

What's chaff? The left-overs. The coarse inedible husks of grain. When the grain was winnowed, it was thrown into the air and separated from the chaff by the wind (v. 4).

The Psalmist calls the ungodly (wicked), like chaff. Other Scriptures

used the term, chaff, as prophets warned the wicked (Isaiah 5:24; 17: 13; Hosea 13:3). John the Baptist preached of the future of the wicked (Matthew 3:12).

God created humans with the awesome ability to make choices, even to reject Him. God loves us and wants us to have fellowship with him. But we must choose between His way and the way of the world. Scripture details this contrast between the righteous and the wicked; light and dark; right and wrong; heaven or hell; salvation or destruction; life or death. We have a choice.

The Two Choices v. 6

Spurgeon contrasts the righteous and the unrighteous: "A lit-

tle the righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked for a wicked heart; the whole world is too little" (Psalm 37:16).

Remember when Joshua reviewed the history of Israel and concluded: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15).

Dee Brestin recounts a charming Rabbinic tradition (A Woman's Journey Through Psalms, Cooks Communications, 2001): "A kiss from the king is a living word of prophecy. When Scripture leaps out at you and ministers to your need for that moment, you have been kissed by the King!"

I hope you have had this delightful encounter of God's Holy Spirit as He wings a truth to your heart while you: hear Scripture read, sing a worshipful song, or read words from Christian literature. In that experience we could say we've been kissed by the King!

Sing: "All Hail King Jesus" (Dave Moody, Dayspring 1981) and "Crown Him King of Kings" (Sharon Damazio, Integrity, 1991).

Read the contrasts of Psalm One and Psalm Two.

The Wicked: Psalm 1, driven away like chaff; Psalm 2, broken in pieces like a potter's vessel. The Righteous: Psalm 1; like a tree planted by the rivers of water; Psalm 2; contemplate Christ the Covenant Head, made better than a tree for He is King and all bow before Him; He gives a blessing to all who trust Him" (Charles Spurgeon).

"David had the first five books of Moses. How much more should we prize the whole written Word which it is our privilege to have in our homes. Let us become Berean searchers of the Scriptures" (Acts 17:11). Delight in God's Word!

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we praise You! We want to live the blessed righteous life in You through our Savior Jesus. Help us delight in Your Word, the Bread of life, and honor You in all we say and do. In Jesus name, Amen.

Caughman teaches the Bible and sings in two choirs at First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

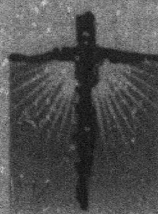
submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



3. Auburn Church, Tupelo



4. Branch Church, Morton



5. First Church, New Albany



6. Antioch Church, Union

1. Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, will host its 2009 Fall to Jesus Jubilee Nov. 7, 4-6 p.m.

2. Cleary Church, Cleary, is having a church-wide rummage sale Nov. 14, beginning at 6:30 a.m.

3. Auburn Church, Tupelo, held a baby dedication Aug. 30. Shown is the Walton family, the Curtis family, the Russell family, the Hicks family, the Gregory family, and the Dillard family.

4. The GAs and RAs of Branch Church, Morton, collected items for their annual Christmas in August mission project. Shown are the participants.

5. First Church, New Albany, collected shoes for a mission project. The church's Acteens sorted and banded each pair for distribution. Shown are the Acteens.

6. Antioch Church, Union, recognizes its children's Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

7. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sept. 20. On Oct. 18, the church dedicated a historical marker commemorating 100 years of ministry. Shown are pastor Eddie Bryant and members of the Centennial Committee.

8. The GAs of Brandon Church, Brandon, participated in a Turkish tea party Oct. 21, hosted by Darlene Cooper. The girls were entertained with stories from Cooper's recent mission trip to Turkey and were served authentic Turkish tea and treats. Shown are the participants.

9. Morgantown Church, Natchez, ordained Jim Williams as deacon Oct. 18. Shown are pastor Ed Wright, Williams, and his wife, Nell.

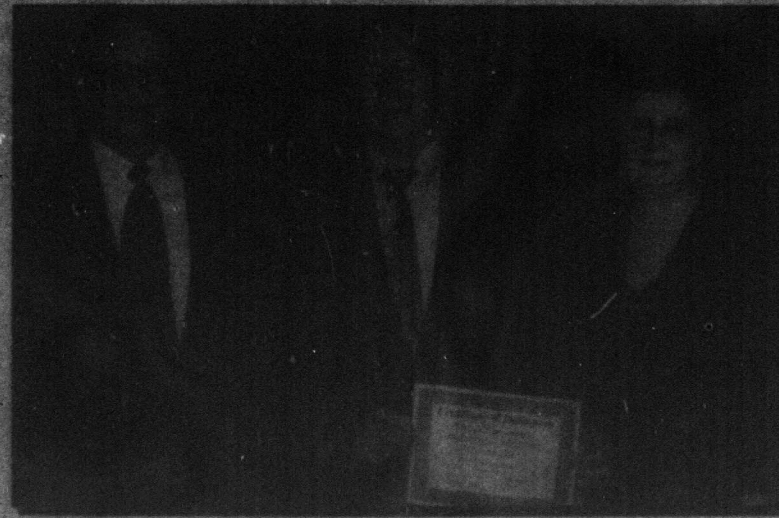
10. East Prentiss Church, Prentiss, held a baby dedication for Ashton Uriah Nichols Oct. 25. Shown is the Nichols family and pastor Robert Blankauship.



7. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel



8. Brandon Church, Brandon



9. Morgantown Church, Natchez



10. East Prentiss Church, Prentiss